



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

SUMMER EDITION JULY 2015



The Chairman's Report

The last few months have been quite entertaining in spite of several last minute changes to the schedule. Tristan Brittain was unable to come in April and so David Walker from the Wokingham Society came and gave a splendid talk on 'Birds of Prey' and 'Antarctica'. We had two visitors from the Reading Society in May – Roger Barry who spoke about 'Malaya' and Colin Lee with 'Sudan'. Both speakers had some lovely material that they showed us.

The Monday afternoon meetings continue to be well attended with some very interesting topics that are chosen by the members. In April we had 'Green Things' with a wide and varied interpretation. The May meeting topic was 'Flying' and there were many members showing items about the subject with quite a few on Concorde. The subject for May was 'Miscellaneous' which covered a multitude of subjects from Cinderella issues, Belgium, Japan, Roman cards, some cacti from a member's extensive collection and Post boxes of various sorts.

The Monday Cup will be held in July with other meetings to be arranged yet. Thursday meetings have been already arranged with the A.G.M. and Social being held in September as usual to which you are all invited to attend.

Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 49

Issue 129

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Off to battle we go – have we got everything?

For further information on
anything in this newsletter
please contact

Martin Farr, Editor

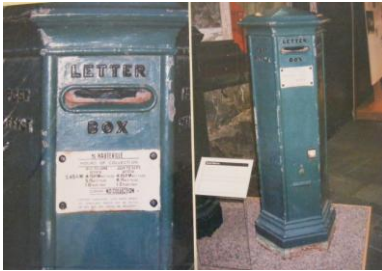
Tel 01635 866437

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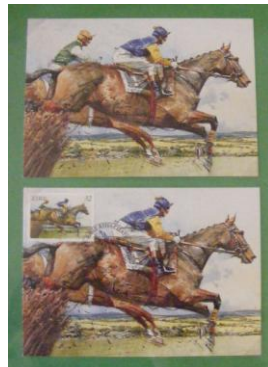
Graeme Stewart, Secretary

Tel 01635 866942

Photo Gallery



`Green` Postboxes



`Green` Horses



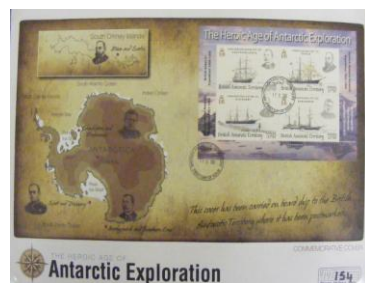
Children in Green



David Walker



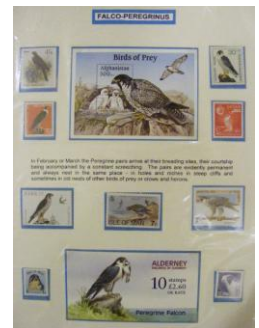
Bald Eagles



A lovely FDC



Antarctica covers



Peregrine Falcons



Balloon Flights



The Graf Zeppelin



First Cargo Flights



Malaysian Covers



Roger Barry



Colin Lee



Sudanese Views

PAST EVENTS

Monday April 13th and the theme was “Green Things” - there were just 17 present.

Tony Jordan started the afternoon with “Think green! – grassland – grass = Horses (what else). He showed some very nice sheets on green backing of Irish horses plus several sheets of racehorses (on green grass of course).

Ian Keel followed with a nice display of Green Machins followed by **Juliet Keel** who showed a sheet on Guiseppe Verdi (George Green?) and a sheet of postcards of children all dressed in green.

Martin Farr then showed a nice green Chinese art picture, some sheets on King Arthur (the borders were all in green) and finished off with a green radio licence from 1937 when the fee was just 10/- and a green birth certificate with double dating – The birth of David Ralph in Moscow – the son of English parents working there – and registered at the Anglican Church. He was born on the 21st December 1912 or 3rd January 1913 and baptized on 16th June 1913 or 29th June 1913. The reason for the two sets of dates is because Pope Gregory instigated the Gregorian calendar in 1582. Great Britain and colonies did not adopt the calendar until 1752 when a correction of 11 days were needed. The Anglican Church in Moscow followed GB but the Russian state followed the old Julian calendar and did no change over until 1921 when a 13 day correction was needed.

Tony Hillier then showed us some mini sheets of green issues of the world of plants and vegetables, forests and trees and some nice rainforest issues. Then finally a very nice M.S. of children's drawings all about saving the planet.

Graeme Stewart finished off the afternoon with a short history of post box colours. The first post box was erected in the Channel Islands in 1882 and it was Green! Then he showed pictures of the rectangular Penfield green box and Irish boxes that are all green. These were followed by green UK issue stamps, such as plant and garden issues, golf course issues, sports stamps with green on them such as cricket, and tennis and to finish off the afternoon Graeme showed sheets of plants and trees and Kew gardens.

Quite a good afternoons set of displays and talks.

On Thursday 16th April our guest speaker was David Walker from the Wokingham Stamp Club and his theme for part 1 was “Birds of Prey”. There were 20 members present.

To start the evening David talked about Eagles with deadly talons – all with their latin names. Types shown such as the Imperial, Bald and Golden were shown. then lots of sheets that covered their mating, nesting, and laying of eggs and fledging. Other types included the Tawny, African Black and several other breeds. Then David continued with the Peregrine Falcons (some of the fastest birds in the air) and other hunting birds and their habits, such as Ospreys and Kestrels, plus some nice sheets showing the colour sequences used in producing the stamps. He then continued with many sheets and descriptions of Buzzards and Honey Buzzards, Red and Black Kites, Sparrow Hawks and Goshawks.

A lovely and well-presented display of Birds of Prey.

For the second half David's theme was “Antarctica”. This was a fantastic collection of world-wide stamps, covers, mini sheets and ephemera covering from the Portuguese expedition and discovery in 1487-88 and onwards to the present day. Topics covered and displayed were the circumnavigation by Cooke, the Russian expedition in 1820, the French in 1837 and many others who explored and mapped around the coastal regions including those who were trapped in the ice for many weeks.

There were lots of sheets showing the ships used in the expeditions – many survived – some went to a watery grave. David then displayed sheets covering both Scott's fateful expedition and Shackleton's including the ships *Nimrod* and *Endurance*.

This was quite a most entertaining and comprehensive display that David had put together in under a year! Well done for giving us a great evenings entertainment.

The theme for Monday 10th May was “Flying” and there were 17 members present on a dull afternoon

Tony Jordan started the session with stamps and covers to give a short history of Balloon Flights.

Next **Tony Hillier** displayed colourful sheets and cards on Butterflies, then some ‘Super-Stampex’ sheets of Balloon Flights and Polar flights. These were followed by some sheets of Bird covers and cards, then finally pages about 20 years of manned flight from 1783 with the Montgolfier Brothers.

Judy Straughan was next with a nice framed picture of the Concorde that she flew on to Sweden and then gave us some interesting historical facts about Concorde.

Ben Hampton was next up and he also showed several illustrated covers on Concorde from 1st day issues, the inaugural flight to Bahrain and a picture signed by the test pilot Brian Trubshaw. He then showed a cover of the first flight from London to New York on 22.11.77 and several more covers commemorating Concorde.

Martin Farr the displayed quite a few sheets illustrating Balloon Flights from Gusmao in 1709 (he set fire to the Palace curtains) to the Montgolfier brothers, de Rozier in 1783, Blanchard who crossed the channel in 1785 and the worlds first air-mail service in 1780 when Paris was besieged by the Prussian army and the balloon ‘Armand Barbes’, carrying mail and information was sent up and out of Paris. To finish off Martin showed airships and dirigibles finishing up with the Graf Zeppelin and a lovely cover showing its flight to the Chicago World Fair in 1833 - too good to be true – very scarce indeed – in fact a very good forgery – shame.

There was a mini auction at half time and 6 lots from 20 were sold.

To start off part 2 **Ian Keel** showed several sheets of ‘Flying Things’. Then covers and cards of general flight themes to and from people that they had met worldwide over the years. Very nice.

Jonathan Barman was next and he showed air letters from 1944 from Australia to his dad, then the start of the airmail flights from Australia to UK via Singapore. And to finish off some nice FDC’s of South African airways to UK(1945-6) that were all addressed to his dad.

Graeme Stewart then showed quite a collection of the first RAF Museum FDC’s – very nice too. These were followed by the Ross Dependency and Antarctica flight covers then finally sheets of stamps and covers showing Penguins, Grebes, Swans, Mallards and Kingfishers. He is a Birdwatcher after all – (or should that be a Twitcher!).

Dave Tanner finished off the afternoon by showing a selection Air Mail stamp covers, mostly from the USA, from 1918-1941 and then several covers showing the routes taken by both International and overseas airmails.

This was a very interesting afternoon and if you were not there you missed it!

On Thursday May 21st we had two guest speakers from the Reading Society – Roger Barry and Colin Lee and there were 21 members present.

Roger started the evening with the subject of Malaya and its early states and names. Straits Settlements issues from 1854-57 when their first stamps were Indian overprints. There were quite a few illustrative sheets on this subject. Then some early Perak overprints (some of his favourites). They used the Settlements overprints done in Singapore by hand from 1880-1899. He then continued with early stamp sets from Perlis, Kedah and Kelantan showing variations in perforations and watermarks and spoke about plates, perforations, faults and sheet idents.

Roger continued with early flight covers from Penang and Kedah to Singapore, field P.O. covers and stamps and issues during the Japanese occupation – the first issues to be used universally throughout Malaya from 1945-1947. Then to finish off a great display Rogers showed sheets of the final 1951 issues of Perlis in very nice groups of four.

After a break for tea and biccies **Colin Lee** started off the second half with his theme of Sudan. His first sheet was the 1849 stampless `Entire` to Alexandria from Sudan followed by early covers and letters to and from Sudan from 1849-1900. The first issues were Egyptian overprints. His sheets showed many varied and unusual cancellations – one letter has 28 cancellations that went all around the world. Colin continued with displays of Postal Rate changes with many sheets of covers illustrating them. Then Nile steamer boat cancellations and covers, military Post Office covers to and from Khartoum. Then P.O.W. letters and covers, several postage due sheets and parcel postage issues. Finally Colin showed a short study of the 1 millieme issues – single stamps with many examples of overprints and cancellations, small sheets and a whole sheet of 120! Many thanks to Roger and Colin for a most enjoyable evenings entertainment.

The theme for Monday 1st June was `Miscellaneous` and there were 18 present.

Bob Paterson started the proceedings by showing a mixture of covers and stamps, letters and postcards about war postage. Then some French propaganda issues of Marshall Petain and finished up with covers and cards of totally useless places such as Wigan Pier. All very interesting.

Then **Glyn Slater** showed three stamps on piece to a total of 4 pence! They were of George V, Edward VIII and George VI . They were all franked and went through the postal system – I bet it would not happen today.

Ian Keel was next and his theme was `Cinderella` issues for special occasions such as raising funds for charities. Then he showed year packs from Slovenia that he had recently acquires on a visit there and finally several `Cancelled to Order` issues.

Tony Hillier showed sheets of Belgian stamps and covers of the Belgian Antarctic expedition and once again his lovely sets of postcards from his grandfather to his grandmother when they were courting that showed the `lovers codes` ie the orientation of the stamp on the card gave a message – what a clever idea – much better than SWALK.

To finish the first half **Martin Farr** showed sheets depicting the travels of the Japanese Haiku Poet Matsuo Basho around Honshu Island. His travels with his companion Sora started on May 16th 1689 and the journey took 5 months. At many locations he composed Haiku and the complete journey and poems are depicted in his world famous book `A Narrow Road to a Far Place`.

There was a mini-auction at half time when just 5 items from 21 were sold

Juliet Keel started part 2 with some sheets of Montreal Expo 67 that she did the catalogue for plus some cards of the national and international pavilions.

Judy Straughan then showed 3 stamps with a classical bent plus a selection of lovely Bells Latin cards depicting life in ancient Rome that were used as a teaching aid with Latin grammar and exercises on the back.

Mike Smith then showed some of his extensive cacti collection together with quite a few sheets on the subject from around the world. Apparently the cacti have taken over both the house and green house!

Then to finish off the afternoon **Graeme Stuart** spoke about and showed many sheets of Post Boxes – his favourite subject. They started with sheets about Anthony Trollope who assisted in the setting up of the first box in the Channel Islands in 1852. Then sheets on the early Newbury-Bath railway proposition and to finish an interesting sheet on HMS Thatcham – a minesweeper. A good afternoon.

Thursday 18th June was the Members `Buy and Sell` followed by the auction of club lots. There was quite a poor attendance. Not one item was sold by or to a member by anyone but at least the club lots did quite well. **Dave Tanner** was the auctioneer (Tony Jordan had been sealed in his house by wet road tarmac). There were 45 lots sold out of 100 with the proceeds amounting to £50.50 which was not too bad considering the members present although there were some postal bids I believe.

THE POSTCARD PAGE ETC

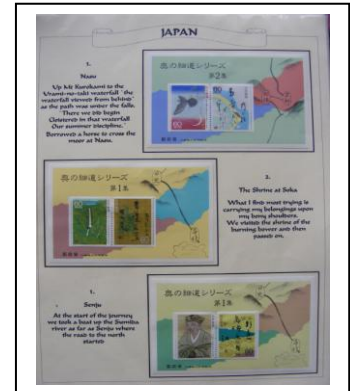


Cinderellas



Patersons Progress, covers and cards

Anthony Trollope who introduced Postboxes to the UK



Matsuo Basho's first three stops



Ships and galleys in port



Laying siege to a Greek city

These lovely postcards are in fact Latin Tutorial cards with descriptions and exercises on the back. They were shown at the last Monday meeting by Judy Straughan and they were too good to leave out. See also front page.



At the Circus Maximus for a chariot race

USEFUL WEBSITES

Tony Bray for World new issues at www.tonybray.co.uk

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at www.royalmail.com

The society website with lots of data and links at www.tdps.co.uk

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at www.avionstamps.com

****The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International****

Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at www.abps.org.uk

www.stampauctionsnetwork.co.uk for lots of info about auctions almost everywhere

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

16 th July	75 th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain
18 th August	Bees
16 th September	Post and Go – Sea Travel
18 th September	Rugby World Cup

Future Programme and Events

Saturday 4 th July	Midpex 2015 held at Warwick exhibition centre
Monday 6 th July	`The Monday Cup` and `Hunting, shooting and fishing`
Thursday 16 th July	`Philatelic Halves` - displays by two of our members
There is no Monday meeting held in August	
Saturday 15 th August	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall
Thursday 20 th August	`Something of interest I have found` - members displays
Monday 7 th September	To be arranged by Monday members
16 th – 19 th September	Autumn Stampex at Islington
Thursday 17 th September	Annual General Meeting and Social evening.
Saturday 10 th October	32 nd Annual Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall
Novembers Auction lots on view	

We are sorry to announce the death of Tom Fowler of the Hampshire Philatelic Federation who passed away in April.

Tom used to judge some of our competitions and in recent years had given us several talks and displays.

He was the editor of the Hampshire Federation Bulletin and was always very complementary regarding Westbex.

Our condolences and sympathy go out to his family, friends and colleagues.

THE BACK PAGE

“Club Stamps” corner

Club Stamps are well looked after by **Dave Tanner** who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall.

Accessories

Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

Packet Circuit

The Society has an active packet circuit with a good range of material at attractive prices. Please contact Mike Gurr at any meeting or else contact him by phone at the number listed below

Officers of the Club			Committee	
President	John Baron	01933 650093	Bob Paterson	01635 44848
Chairman	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235	Tony Jordan	01189 302279
Vice Chair	Mike Gurr	01635 43398	Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942		
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307		
Archivist	Ian Keel	WestBex	Graeme and Martin	Publicity Martin Farr